

**Town of Camden  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
Camden Municipal Building  
June 5, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noticed that this regular Council Meeting was being held in compliance with the Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on May 25, 2017, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board,
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site
- d. The News Journal, and
- e. The Delaware State News

Blake King led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Schock, Councilman Dougherty, Councilwoman Torres, and Councilman Findley.

Absent: None.

Staff Attending: Chief William Bryson, Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, and Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah.

**AMENDMENTS**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the May 1, 2017 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to approve the May 1, 2017 executive session minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion made by Councilman Findley, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the May 15, 2017 public workshop minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Mrs. Marlow explained to Council that two properties in Camden have been sent violation notices and need to be torn down. The first property discussed was a trailer on 28 Peach Street and the seconded property was a two car garage on 11996 Willow Grove Road.

Mrs. Marlow added that both owners have made contact with the Town and neither is in a financial position to have the buildings torn down. She asked for Mayor and Council's approval on seeking bids for demolition and have these items placed on next month's agenda.

Mrs. Marlow asked Mayor and Council if the placement and cost of a new Christmas tree for the Town's Caroling in Camden event can be placed on next month's agenda for discussion and approval.

**CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT**

None

**CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY**

Mayor King introduced Mary Ellen Gray to the residents and stated she is the new appointee to the Camden-Wyoming Sewer & Water Authority as well as the Chairwoman of the Town's Planning Commission. Mayor King thanked Mary Ellen Gray for her dedication to the Town.

Mrs. Gray explained business is as usual besides the lawsuit. She asked Mr. Elliason if he had an update on the lawsuit?

Mr. Elliason explained Vice Chancellor Slight's asked for a second oral argument which will take place August 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Court of Chancery. He stated he hoped after the oral argument they would have a final decision within 60 days.

Mrs. Gray explained she wasn't able to attend the CWSWA workshop that discussed the service district for the authority. She stated once she receives the minutes she will update the Town on the workshop.

Mayor King stated that last meeting Councilwoman Torres discussed the water rate increase of 5% and explained that the CWSWA only votes if they do not wish to have a rate increase.

Mrs. Gray explained the resolution she read and agreed it will automatically increase 5% every year unless voted on. She stated she had a conversation with Mr. Scott and would like to schedule a meeting with him to discuss the budget process. She explained that Kent County hasn't raised sewer rates in a long time. She added that she is unaware how or when the resolution for the 5% increase was passed.

Councilwoman Torres stated she believed it was around 2009 when the resolution was passed.

Mrs. Gray explained she would have the resolution added to June's agenda for discussion.

Councilman Dougherty explained that when he sat on the CWSWA board the budget presented did not require a rate increase but because of this resolution a 5% increase was added.

Councilwoman Torres explained when she sat on the board she would ask to see the budget without the 5% increase and salary increases. She stated that Mr. Scott said when raises are given; they are given to all employees. Mrs. Torres stated she would like someone to confirm this.

Mrs. Gray said she would confirm the salary increase as well as the 5% rate increase resolution and report back to Council at July's meeting.

#### **FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN**

None.

#### **VFW**

Christina Chidester introduced herself as the new Senior-Vice Commander at the VFW. She explained she is starting her Summer water drive at the post for the Veterans and homeless. Ms. Chidester asked if there is anything the VFW can do to help the Town.

Mayor King stated a nice event to attend is the Touch-A-Truck event at Fifers.

Chief Bryson stated Lowe's is having a Safety Day event in October if they wanted to participate.

#### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Bryson gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity.

Chief Bryson explained that the Delaware League of Local Government and Fraternal Order of Police decided not to take a position on the marijuana legislative. He stated he had a round table discussion with the Governor and he did not state if he was committed to the legislative but did state he was not committed to VETO any decision. Chief Bryson explained Representative Kelly said it will go to the house in June but has no plans to take it to the Senate until they reconvene in January. Chief Bryson stated Representative Yearick is opposed to this legislative.

Mayor King stated he would like the Town to start an ordinance on the marijuana distribution.

Mayor King explained he has had several phone calls that the new crosswalk signs at West Street and Old North Road are opposite when you approach the sign. He stated they either need to be turned or double sided.

Chief Bryson stated double sided would be better.

Councilwoman Torres thanked the police department for their work and thanked Bishop, who was sitting in the audience, for always being seen around Town during his shift.

Mayor King thanked Chief Bryson as well as all the officers.

#### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Chaffinch explained Mr. Simpson applied and received a demolition permit for the partial block foundation on Upper King Road that was discussed at a previous meeting due to the criminal activity. He stated Mr. Simpson said the demolition would be completed within 4 weeks and when he rode by this morning he saw the blocks being removed.

Mayor King asked Mr. Chaffinch to give Mr. Simpson our thanks.

Mr. Chaffinch stated the Real Estate Transfer Tax revenue for May was \$5,821.43.

Mr. Chaffinch explained the drain issue beside Chick-Fil-A has been taken care of as well as the swale issue in Camden Commons.

Mr. Chaffinch stated he received an email from Councilwoman Torres that included a spreadsheet to track the public work employees time spent on code enforcement. He explained he would continue to have the employees submit written reports as well.

Mr. Chaffinch explained the past four weeks Mr. Scott has spent 30 hours on code enforcement and sent out 40 violations for grass, expired tags, and building demolition. He explained to Council once letters are sent out Mr. Scott has to wait 10 days before taking any action.

Mr. Chaffinch stated the public works employees put new blocks around the pillars in the front of the Town Hall building.

Councilwoman Torres thanked Mr. Chaffinch for his report and said she was happy to see code enforcement being done in Camden. She stated the dumpster in Newell's Creek needs to be dumped.

Councilman Dougherty explained there is gravel lying on the road between Main Street and Route 13 from when the street repair project was done by Del-Dot.

#### **MAYOR**

Mayor King thanked staff, Mr. Josiah, and Mrs. Marlow for their hard work on the budget. He explained Ms. Fenske was still out making progress on her recovery from surgery.

#### **PRESENTATION**

PFC Buchwald presented Council with the proposed CPOA contract for 07/01/17-06/30/20. He explained that three changes were made due to typos on pages 10, 11, and 15. He stated the purpose of today's presentation was to get the new budget signed. He explained that an annual salary increase of 2% starting in FY18/19 was added to the proposed contract due to the hard

times the officers went through during the “Plumley affect.” He explained the police force once had 15 officers, then down to 7 officers, and out of the 7 officers, 5 of them were officers during this time and didn’t know if they would have a job. PFC Buchwald stated these officers had to have furlough days and were given no salary increase during this time which saved the town \$14,000.00.

PFC Buchwald stated in 2013 the proposed contract presented to Council called for up to a 10% COLA increase, then changed to a 4% increase, and now we are presenting a 2% yearly increase. He stated they had preliminary meetings with Mayor King and Councilman Dougherty and originally asked for a 5% increase but asked what the maximum amount Mayor and Council would consider and they stated 2%. He explained this year the COLA increase being voted on in tonight’s meeting is 1.7% and we thank you for that but we would like commitment from the town in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 for a 2% increase each year. PFC Buchwald stated this would cost the town \$7,422 and the top paid officer would receive .58 cents per hour raise and the lowest paid officer would receive .40 cent per hour raise.

Mayor King asked what changes were made due to the typos?

PFC Buchwald stated on page 10 domestic partner and grandchild was added. He explained they were in the original contract but was lost somehow in this proposed contract. He stated page 11 the proposed contract stated presidents day/election day for paid holidays was changed to only during a presidential election year. He also explained on page 15 the proposed contract stated staff officers handled overtime assignments and it was changed back to officers.

Councilman Dougherty stated on page 15 the rate of pay for special duty changed to \$55.00 per hour which was negotiated on in preliminary meetings.

Chief Bryson explained in the proposed contract there is also an increase from \$35 to \$40 for SEP.

PFC Buchwald stated he was not up to date on that increase and it may have been a mistake.

PFC Buchwald stated the seniority clause of last in-first out was taken out of contract because they feel as though that is a management issue and falls under the Chief of Police.

Mayor King asked if the Lieutenant discussion was updated from their last meeting?

PFC Buchwald explained the pay schedule was updated. The footnote at the bottom was removed, the Captain and Chief were removed, and the 20% increase for the Sergeant over the Lieutenant was changed to 8%.

Mayor King asked why the Lieutenant was covered under the CPOA?

PFC Buchwald explained it’s because that position works the road.

Chief Bryson stated in most departments the only position not covered under the CPOA is the Chief.

Mayor King asked if the 8% increase was discussed at the last meeting?

PFC Buchwald stated yes.

Mayor King thanked PFC Buchwald for his great presentation.

Councilwoman Torres asked if the CPOA contract has not been updated since 2013?

Mayor King stated yes.

Councilwoman Torres explained she would like to take some time and read through the contract presented and compare it to the old contract. She stated she supports our police department but in fairness to our budget everything has to be taken into consideration.

Councilman Findley stated PFC Buchwald did a wonderful job on his presentation but with budgetary constraints we have to take a look at everything.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

A motion was made by Councilman Findley, seconded by Councilman Dougherty to go into public hearing to discuss the FY 2017/2018 draft budget. All in favor; none opposed.

Mr. Josiah stated there was no changed made to the proposed budget from the budget presented at the public workshop. He stated the \$2,034,433.00 budget presented this evening is balanced. He explained the 1<sup>st</sup> reading a \$24,000 deficit was presented but we increased the building permit revenue to balance the budget. He stated this was a 4% increase from last year's budget. Mr. Josiah advised Council to keep previous discussions in mind of the tight budget when negotiating with the CPOA.

Councilwoman Torres explained that during the public workshop she suggested taking away the COLA and early bird discount. She stated after some thought she suggested not removing the COLA increase but decreasing the early bird discount from \$20.00 to \$10.00. She explained the Town needed to take some steps in the right direction to help our budget for the following years.

Mayor King asked if there was any public comment.

Seeing none, a motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Findley to exit the public hearing and enter back into regular session. All in favor; none opposed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***FY 2017/2018 Draft Budget- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading***

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Findley to approve the proposed FY 2017/2018 Draft Budget presented. Roll Call:

Councilwoman Torres – Yes

Vice Mayor Schock – Yes

Councilman Dougherty – Yes

Councilman Findley – Yes  
Mayor King – Yes

All in favor; motion carries.

Mr. Josiah asked Council if the CPOA contract that was presented for the 2% annual increase was the COLA increase or do they get the COLA increase plus the 2% each year? He suggested to Council to consider an exclusion clause for the contract as one or the other or both.

COLA

Mayor King explained the 1.7% increase was included in the FY 2017/2018 budget.

Councilman Dougherty asked if the Town cleaning contract should be given a 1.7% increase as well since it has remained the same since 2013?

Mrs. Marlow stated they are happy with what we are being paid as it is.

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock to approve the 1.7% COLA increase to all eligible employees. Roll Call:

Councilwoman Torres – Yes  
Vice Mayor Schock – Yes  
Councilman Dougherty – Yes  
Councilman Findley – Yes  
Mayor King – Yes

All in favor; motion carries.

Mayor King stated he is glad that Council is reviewing a COLA increase yearly because it helps with employee morale. He explained the Council a few years ago decided to cut their stipends to save officers and this Council has, in the recent years, approved new police vehicles, training, and weapons for the police department.

#### *Public Works Equipment*

Mrs. Marlow stated the following three bids were obtained in order to purchase a new dump truck for the public works department:

- 1) IG Burton-2017 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD 4WD Reg Cab 162"WB for \$50,705.00
- 2) Willis Chevrolet, Inc – 2017 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD 4WD Reg Cab 137.65" 59.06 CA for \$43,886.00 (Did not include- \$2,500 trade in for current dump truck)
- 3) Kent County Motors – 2017 GMC Sierra 3500HD Reg Cab for \$50,243.00.

Vice-Mayor Schock asked if the Willis bid was missing anything since it came in much lower than the other bids?

Mr. Josiah asked if each company was giving the same specs to bid on?

Mayor King asked to table the public works vehicle to next month since not all the specs are the same for each quote.

*Tax Discount*

A motion was by Vice Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty to approve an early bird discount for property taxes in the tax year 2017/2018. A discount will be given of \$20.00 if received in the office by July 31, 2017 4 o'clock pm. Postmark is not accepted. Discount only applies if the total balance due is paid in full. If the discount amount is not deducted from payment, a credit will remain on the account until the following tax year. Roll Call:

Councilwoman Torres – opposed  
Vice Mayor Schock – Yes  
Councilman Dougherty – Yes  
Councilman Findley – Yes  
Mayor King – Yes

Motion carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:51pm a motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock to exit regular session and enter into executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

At 10:15pm a motion was made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock to exit executive session and enter into regular session. All in favor; none opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made at 10:16 by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Marlow, Account Specialist*